**Why French? Pourquoi le Français ?**

***That depends on where you want to go, what you want to do, and what moves and inspires you…***

***French can lead you to****:*

**Europe:** France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Monaco

**Africa**: Official Language of 18 Countries including: Mali, Senegal, Cote D’Ivoire, Guinée, Cameroon, Benin, Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius and major language in many others including: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Seychelles…

**Asia / Pacific**: Official in French Polynesia and important in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lebanon

**Americas**: Official in Canada\*, French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Haïti, and Louisiana

*\*Québec is the 2nd largest concentration of French speakers in the world and Montréal is the 2nd largest French speaking city in the world after Paris. Québec is closer and more French than you might think.*

**French isn’t just a gateway to France, but to all of la Francophonie,- the whole French Speaking World** ! Next to English, French is the only other global language that is officially spoken on 5 continents ! French is also one of the most commonly used languages on the internet.

***French can open opportunities to you in****:*

**Diplomacy**- United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, European Union, NAFTA…

**Humanitarian Work**- International Red Cross, Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), U.S. Peace Corps…

**Business**- 1,200 French Companies have U.S. subsidiaries in Luxury, Retail, Fashion, Automotive, Aerospace, Electronics, Telecommunications, Finance, Civil Engineering, Chemical, and Energy Industries

**Medicine**- France is a world leader in Medical Research, Genetics, and Pharmaceuticals

**Science**- Physics, Nuclear Power, Chemistry, Oceanography

**Entertainment**- Film, Music, Cuisine

**Arts**- Painting, Architecture, Dance (Ballet), Sculpture, Literature

**Sports**- International Olympic Committee, Cycling, Tennis, Auto Racing, Soccer (Le Football), Hockey, Skiing

***French connects to everything*-** and us, ***through history*** as the dominant world power of the 18th century, the center of the Enlightenment, America’s first ally, and a global partner in the pursuit of liberty, democracy, and human rights.

Because of history, French is the Romance language most closely related to English. 40 to 50% of English vocabulary comes from French.

***About the language****:* French is very easy to read and understand because of the great number of cognates (words that look the same and mean the same) with English. It looks very much like English. French is not so hard to pronounce, but is a bit hard to spell because of silent letters- but only in the beginning…

***About French in Aurora:*** French is offered from 7th grade through Level 5 at Aurora High School. It is also one of the languages offered for the IB Program at AHS. Trips have recently been organized to Québec in 2004, and 2008 and France in 2006, and another trip to Québec is being offered for February 2012

**Questions ? Please Contact-**

**Mrs. Barb Cook** at Aurora High School [bcook@aurora-schools.org](mailto:bcook@aurora-schools.org)

**Mr. Paul Frankmann** at Harmon Middle School [pfrankmann@aurora-schools.org](mailto:pfrankmann@aurora-schools.org)